

### **Explanatory Remarks**

Please amend the claims as indicated hereinabove. Specifically, two amendments have been requested – certain amendments to Claim 18, and cancellation of Claim 20.

For purposes of this paper Claims 5-6, 8-14, 16-17, and 23 (a total of 12 claims) stand allowed. Claim 18 stands rejected, and Claim 20 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable, according to the Examiner, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102**

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Norman et al., U.S. 3,948,809. It is urged by the Examiner that Norman et al., in its examples, claims, and at column 2, line 25, discloses the calcination of bauxite waste stream liquors after addition of sodium carbonate or sodium hydroxide at temperatures of 400°C to 900°C. In view of this the Examiner has concluded that the disclosure reads on the compositions and processes.

By this paper Applicant has requested amendment to incorporate the substance of Claim 20 into independent Claim 18. Claim 20 has now been canceled. While Applicant continues to respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertions, the amendments are requested only in order to facilitate closing of prosecution and to enable the application to issue to grant. It is believed that, with these amendments, the rejection under Norman et al. has now been rendered moot. Accordingly, its withdrawal is now respectfully requested.

With this Response D it is believed that all thirteen (13) currently pending claims as constructed hereinabove are now fully in condition for allowance. Such allowance of all claims is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Barbara J. Tribble  
Attorney Registration No. 31,670  
112 Pansy Path  
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566  
Ph./Fax 979-299-1893  
e-mail: baronti@swbell.net

Date December 22, 2004